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~~SECURITY INFORMATION~~

*partially
balked*

NSC BRIEFING

12 November 1952

SIGNIFICANCE OF PHILIPPINE ELECTIONS

- I. Careful preparation by civic groups for free Philippine elections paid off handsomely in Maggsay's impressive victory.
 - A. Every intimation of dubious intent on part of Quirino men had been heavily publicized.
 - B. They apparently decided odds against them too great to buck.
- II. Fact that public demand for free elections recognized and respected will significantly strengthen Philippine democracy.
 - A. In past it has been more aspiration than reality.
- III. Not to be assumed, however, that Philippines has once and for all achieved stability.

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~~ALL INFORMATION~~

A. Magsaysay has recognized integrity
but meager political experience.

B. Pretty well surrounded by same type
old line politicos, Laurel, Recto
etc., responsible for bad government
in past.

IV. Pro-American tag pinned on Magsaysay by
Liberals proved to be political asset in
Philippines.

A. Elsewhere in Southeast Asia fact that
"American" candidate won may be re-
garded as indication that Filipinos
still American puppets.

V. Inevitably some disillusion among Filipinos
in months to come, land reform economic
problems unresolvable on short term.

A. Magsaysay has raised hopes that can-
not possibly be satisfied.

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- B. Some powerful members of his party
will oppose attempts to satisfy人民
B. But prospect for good government
Philippines is brighter than ever
before.